

Public Transportation Is About More Than Buses

Public transportation is about moving people. Particularly in larger, urban areas, effective public transportation requires multiple modes intricately woven together in a well-integrated system functioning together as a whole. While this includes buses, it may, and often should, also involve pedestrian, bike and other forms of transportation. This kind of careful integration between multiple modes of transportation is what is commonly referred to as “multi-modal transportation,” a reality Greenlink is working hard to better establish in Greenville County. Specifically, we have recently administered a bike use survey demonstrating the continued growth of interest in enhanced bike-related facilities and an improved multi-modal transit system in Greenville. Consistent with this growing demand, we are continuing to invest in improving the integration in Greenville between biking and busing as we aim to become a truly multi-modal transit system.

In the past, Greenlink has been active in pursuing integration between bike travel and bus use through the installation of bike racks on all Greenlink fixed route buses. In the future, Greenlink envisions much more investment in and integration with bike-related transit. Currently, Greenlink is in the process of installing new bike lockers downtown in Greenville. Initially four of these lockers will be installed, two near the recently renovated downtown transfer center, one at the Spring Street garage and one at City Hall. The locations of the lockers have been strategically chosen in order to better facilitate not only bike use for those who commute to or around downtown, but also integration with the bus system to expand accessibility and usefulness for those who would want to use the two modes of transportation together. The bike lockers will be available for rent by the public on a semi-annual basis for personal storage of bike and bike-related equipment downtown.

Not only is Greenlink installing individual bike lockers, but, as the third and final stage of the downtown transfer center renovation, an indoor bike center is being planned for construction in the upper level of the Washington Street Garage. The details of the bike center are still being finalized but it promises to be a significant improvement in facilities for cyclists in the downtown area. The physical connection to the transfer center will also facilitate integration between the bike center and the bus system, making it even easier to use both bikes and buses together to commute around Greenville.

These projects represent significant and exciting steps forward in the development of a truly multi-modal transit system in Greenville County and Greenlink is excited to be leading the way!